

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **17th July 2019**

Report Subject: **Summary of Inspection outcomes for educational establishments – Autumn term 2018 and Spring term 2019**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr J Collins, Executive Member for Education**

Report Submitted by: **Lynette Jones, Corporate Director of Education**

Report Written by: **Michelle Jones, Strategic Education Improvement Manager**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
✓	04.06.19				24.06.19	17.07.19		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Leader and Members of the Executive Committee with important performance monitoring information regarding the inspections undertaken by ESTYN of educational establishments and an update of inspection outcomes.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The report summarises the outcomes and recommendations awarded by Estyn for educational establishments inspected during this period together with reported outcomes of Estyn monitoring visits.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 This report has been approved by Education DMT, CLT, Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee for submission to the Executive Committee.
 - 3.2 **Option 1**
To reject report and to make further appropriate recommendations for improvement.
 - 3.3 **Option 2**
Accept the report as provided.

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 **Statutory Responsibility**

4.1.1 All education and training providers in Wales are inspected by Estyn. The current inspection framework changed in September 2017.

4.1.2 Appendix 1 details the procedural and process information.

4.1.3 **Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan**

The Estyn inspection framework is clearly aligned to the objectives in the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan which aims for everyone to have the best start in life.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

5.1.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report.

5.1.2 Blaenau Gwent continues to make a financial contribution to the regional Education Achievement Service (EAS) arrangements of approximately £300,000 per annum.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 The Estyn inspection Framework focuses primarily on standards, the quality of education provision and the quality of leadership in educational establishments and schools.

5.2.2 Improving pupil performance is fundamental to the development of a highly-skilled workforce which is essential to Blaenau Gwent's longer term development. High quality teaching minimises the potential for young people to become NEET (not in employment, education or training) which in turn reduces levels of unemployment and welfare dependency. Failure to identify schools and provide support appropriately places at risk the quality of education and standards in individual schools. The Estyn Inspection Framework provides an external viewpoint through which potential risk is identified and resolved.

5.2.3 Failure to ensure that there is robust monitoring of settings and of Council services carries with it a number of significant risks:

- Undetected and unaddressed decline in school performance and the quality of provision.
- Students do not achieve to acceptable levels.
- Lack of overall improvement in schools' performance.
- Children do not receive the best start in life

- Negative impact on the reputation of the Council.

5.2.4 Similarly, ineffective monitoring of Council Services also poses a range of risks including:

- Reducing standards and quality of provision in settings,
- Poor value for money,
- Ineffective support for settings which hinders their improvement,
- Negative impact on the reputation of the Council.

5.2.5 Through the monitoring of performance by means of Estyn reports, the Scrutiny Committee ensures that educational settings and supporting services are able to deliver provision of a high quality.

5.3 ***Legal***

Estyn is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

None for this report.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 During the reporting period of Autumn term 2018 and Spring term 2019, two establishments were inspected. Acorns Nursery received a follow up visit by Estyn and St Mary's CIW Primary School received a core Estyn inspection.

6.1.2 **Local Authority Monitoring - Acorns Nursery**

Since the November 2017 Estyn inspection the setting has received enhanced support from the EAS. In December 2018 the EAS and LA reported that the setting had made strong progress against each recommendation and that the setting should be removed from Local Authority monitoring. This was accepted by Estyn and the setting was removed from Local Authority monitoring in January 2019.

6.1.3 **St Mary's CIW Primary School**

St Mary's CIW Primary School was inspected by Estyn in March 2019. The inspectors awarded a judgement against all five inspection areas of "Good".

Estyn made three recommendations for improvement and these are summarised below:

R1 Improve the quality of provision in the foundation phase;

R2 Refine self- evaluation processes so they focus more precisely on judging the impact that the provision makes to pupils progress and learning behaviours;

R3 Share best practice in teaching to help ensure that all teaching is of a consistently high standard.

- 6.1.4 The report recognises that ‘School leaders at all levels support a culture that nurtures pupils’ understanding of important values, develops most of their key learning skills successfully and promotes a strong sense of community. Leader and managers work well together and share well – established goals and aspirations.
- 6.1.5 The quality of teaching and learning experiences ensures that most pupils develop strong literacy and numeracy skills. By the end of key stage 2, they use these skills particularly well across the curriculum, especially science. Pupils have positive attitudes to learning and, as they mature, many become skilled in reflecting on and improving their learning. They develop resilience well and are keen to learn from their mistakes.
- 6.1.6 The school provides a high standard of care, support and guidance for its pupils and engages well with parents and the wider community to enhance this aspect of this work. Innovative development, such as the creation of an intergenerational choir support pupils purposefully in their development as informed and caring citizens.”
- 6.1.7 At the date of producing this report the Local Authority has not been informed of any further Estyn inspections within Blaenau Gwent schools or other educational settings.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

Monitoring of inspection reports is an important mechanism for ensuring that the Executive Committee are sufficiently informed to enable them to hold the authority to account effectively for the quality of education provision.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

The Estyn Inspection Framework is delivered in accordance with National regulation.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Estyn Inspection Framework is focused on securing long term improvement in settings. It is one of a number of triggers through which additional monitoring and support can be targeted at a setting to secure strong and continuing prospects for improvement.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

A key element of the Council's work is to work with the EAS to ensure that settings are regularly monitored so that appropriate support is in place and high standards are secured.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Educational improvement in Blaenau Gwent is delivered on a regional basis through the South East Wales Consortium in collaboration with Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The Estyn Inspection Framework is aimed at promoting high quality leadership, excellent standards and high quality education provision. This aim is fundamental to the Council's well-being objectives and is fundamental to the joint work between Education and Social Services Directorates.

6.8 ***EqlA(screening and identifying if full impact assessment is needed)***

Not required for this report.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 Monitoring of inspection reports is an important mechanism for ensuring that the Executive Committee are sufficiently informed to enable them to hold the authority's services to account effectively for the quality of education provision and pupil outcomes.

8. **Background Documents / Electronic Links**



Appendix 1 school inspection arrangements



Acorns Nursery -
Letter out of LAM - C



St Mary's C in W
Voluntary Aided School

REF: SOIOEEA-18/19.188